

September 13, 2018

Dear Music Department Students and Parents,

This year's eighth grade band, orchestra, and chorus are all off to a great start! As each group prepares for their first concert in October, we can hear the musical growth each day.

We will once again offer a field trip to the eighth grade music department. We will be performing at Dollywood Theme Park in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, as part of their Performing Stars program. We will prepare an interdisciplinary concert that will combine band, orchestra, and chorus into one group. The students will learn how to expand their application of blend, balance, key signatures, and rhythmic reading—all while learning some music they will enjoy.

The field trip is scheduled for Thursday and Friday, May 9 and 10, with our return planned for midnight Friday evening. The cost of the trip is estimated to be \$250 per student or chaperon. **If you would like to reserve a spot on the trip, please complete the attached intent form and return the form and the \$50 deposit no later than October 3.** Payments can be made by cash or check (made out to McCleskey Middle School), or you can pay at mypaymentsplus.com.

The tentative itinerary is attached. You will notice that we will stop at Rock City and Ruby Falls in the Chattanooga area. After that stop, we will continue our travel to Pigeon Forge. We will stay at a hotel that includes a water park so that the students and chaperons can unwind at the end of the drive.

Friday's schedule starts with a performance at Dollywood, but the remainder of the day is reserved for students and chaperons to enjoy the theme park.

Students are required to be with chaperons for the entire trip. ***There is no unsupervised time.*** In order to make this work, students will choose their chaperon groups closer to the trip. For this reason, we hope many parents can attend as chaperons. We think the trip is relatively easy for the chaperons, as each chaperon group typically consists of 5-7 students.

Please return the attached intent form and deposit after reading through the rest of this packet. Please note that we will reserve the number of buses for the trip based on the number of intent forms returned. Any student or chaperon who wishes to be added to the trip after October 3 will only be added if there is room on the bus.

Thank you so much for your support of the music department! We look forward hearing their musical growth as they plan their transition to high school.

All the best,

Jody Miller
Band Director

Andrew Paller
Band Director

Kevin Kampman
Orchestra Director

Licia Murrell
Chorus Director

McCleskey Middle School Music Department 2018-2019 Dollywood Trip Payment Schedule

| | |
|------------|-------------------------------------|
| October 3 | \$50 Non-refundable DEPOSIT |
| November 1 | \$50 payment |
| December 3 | \$50 payment |
| January 7 | \$50 payment |
| April 17 | \$50 payment* (see statement below) |

* The \$250 trip cost is estimated based on 70 students/chaperons attending. If additional funds are required, families will be advised in writing. The final payment will be based on the number of trip participants. Students and chaperons will also need a small amount of money (approximately \$5 in one-dollar bills) for meal/hotel gratuities.

—Trip must be paid in full by April 17.

—Make all checks payable to McCleskey Middle School.

—Put all payments in a school safe; label payment envelopes
“Dollywood Spring Trip.”

Trip Costs

Students—\$250.00 (may be adjusted slightly based on final invoice)

- * Roundtrip bus transportation on chartered bus (Harmon Brothers Charter Service)
- * Participation in Dollywood performance
- * Admission to Rock City and Ruby Falls; Dollywood park admission
- * All meals for the trip
- * One nights in hotel, quad occupancy
- * Two McCleskey Band/Orchestra/Chorus T-shirts to be worn during the field trip
- * Private security hired by the McCleskey Middle School Music Department

Chaperons—\$250.00 (may be adjusted slightly based on final invoice)

- * Roundtrip bus transportation on chartered bus
- * Participation in Dollywood performance
- * Admission to Rock City and Ruby Falls; Dollywood park admission
- * All meals for the trip
- * One night in hotel, double occupancy (single rooms *may* be available for an increased fee)
- * Two McCleskey Band/Orchestra/Chorus T-shirts to be worn during the field trip
- * Private security hired by the McCleskey Middle School Music Department

Note: The final trip price may be adjusted based on the number of students and chaperons attending. Trip prices are based on preliminary estimations before park information for the 2019 season is released and may need to be adjusted slightly as costs are finalized.

Trip refund schedule:

December 3: All but \$50 deposit is refundable
March 1: 50% of full trip cost is refundable
April 17: Entire trip cost is non-refundable

This field trip will be finalized by October 3. Each performing group must have enough students to sign up in order to present a viable concert. Students and chaperons may only be added after October 3 if there is room on the buses.



McCleskey Middle School Music Department

SPRING TRIP INTENT FORM

Please return this form, along with a non-refundable deposit of \$50.00 on or before October 3, 2018. Make checks payable to “McCleskey Middle School”. Please put checks in the white money envelope and deposit into the school safe. Label all envelopes “Dollywood Spring Trip.”

NO REFUNDS of paid fees will be made after April 17, 2019.

My child _____ has my permission to participate in the McCleskey Middle School Music Department trip to Dollywood Theme Park and Pigeon Forge, TN, on May 9-12, 2019. We have read the sample itinerary and the page titled “Considerations for you and your student BEFORE we leave on the trip.”

Student’s ADULT T-shirt size _____

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date



If you are interested in serving as a chaperon for the trip, please send in a \$50.00 deposit and fill out the information below. Only parents or legal guardians will be approved to chaperon.

Name of Parent or Guardian

Cell Phone Number

Daytime Phone Number

Evening Phone Number

Chaperon Adult T-shirt size

Considerations for you and your student BEFORE we leave on the trip:

- * Behavior at school and in the band/orchestra/chorus room is taken into consideration by the directors and the school administrators. WE ASK THAT ALL STUDENTS USE GOOD JUDGEMENT BEFORE AND DURING THE TRIP SO THAT FUTURE CLASSES WILL HAVE THIS SAME OPPORTUNITY.
 - If any student is assigned OSS (out-of-school suspension) during the dates of the trip, he/she will not be allowed to participate.
 - If any student shows a pattern of documented misbehavior and/or ISS (in-school-suspension) or OSS, he/she may lose his/her privilege to attend the trip.
 - Students losing the privilege to attend will receive refunds based on the “trip refund schedule” published in this packet.
- * Attendance at ALL required concerts and functions is expected in order to attend the trip. Please post band/orchestra/chorus functions on your family calendar now.
- * Although we try to keep the costs as low as possible, increased transportation prices can make paying for the trip difficult. Consider working out a plan with your student so that they can help raise some of the money—babysitting, yard work for friends in the neighborhood, etc. We will not have a fundraiser specifically for this trip.
- * Students are not required to go on this trip, but it is a REWARD for three years in band, orchestra, or chorus. If they do not attend, they will not be penalized. The concert selections will be performed on our spring concerts, so every bit of rehearsal time utilizes every student. Don’t let your student convince you that we are “only working on Dollywood music in class.”
- * A FULL REFUND (except for the deposit) can be expected if you have to withdraw from the trip before December 3. Students who withdraw from the trip after that date (and through February 28) will receive a 50% refund. After February 28, many of the costs of the trips will have already been paid to the applicable companies (buses, restaurants, hotel, etc.); refunds from March 1-April 17 will be based on which costs have already been paid to those companies. No refunds are offered after April 17. The deposit is non-refundable unless we decide for some reason that the entire group will not be going.